

Message

From: Walts, Alan [walts.alan@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/7/2019 3:44:20 PM
To: Borries, Samuel [borries.samuel@epa.gov]
CC: Ribordy, Michael [ribordy.mike@epa.gov]; Short, Thomas [short.thomas@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Recap Meeting with Regional Administrator Stepp and Southeast Side Community Representatives

Thanks Sam

On May 7, 2019, at 10:35 AM, Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Alan,

The RML lead level of 400 ppm has not changed and this is what we have indicated in the fact sheet we sent to the community. In the fact sheet we also state that just because the level exceeds 400 does not necessarily mean we will take an action. We are using the Lead handbook Tier 1 level for consideration in taking any cleanup action. That level is 1,200 ppm with sensitive populations. Currently the data set we have does not look like it will meet the Tier 1 criteria. Any broader cleanup consideration of cleaning up all the homes to a 400 ppm level are beyond the scope and funding availability of the removal program. Something that large fits more in line with the remedial program requirements.

The manganese RML is 5,500 ppm. To my knowledge we do not have a Tiering system for manganese like we do for lead in the Lead handbook. The removal program will use the RML level to take an action. I am not sure in what context the other concentration levels of 1,600 and 1,800 have been used in her reference but I am assuming these values came into play on a remedial NPL site. Note that the 5,500 level triggers the removal action then we excavate to a predetermined depth or the 1,600/1,800 level (generally whichever comes first).

Please contact me if you need additional information.

Sam Borries
Chief, Emergency Response Branch 2
USEPA Region 5, Superfund Division
Office: 312-353-8360
Mobile: 312-802-5336

From: Walts, Alan
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 8:01 AM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Recap Meeting with Regional Administrator Stepp and Southeast Side Community Representatives

Sorry, still on the train, it's running late this am. Will reach out as soon as I get in, hopefully around 8:30

On May 7, 2019, at 7:54 AM, Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov> wrote:

Can you talk at 0800 this morning?

Sam Borries
Chief, Emergency Response Branch 2
USEPA Region 5, Superfund Division
Office: 312-353-8360
Mobile: 312-802-5336

From: Walts, Alan
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 7:22 AM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Recap Meeting with Regional Administrator Stepp and Southeast Side Community Representatives

That sounds good Sam, do you have some time free today? Thanks

On May 6, 2019, at 4:18 PM, Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Alan,
If you have a moment can we talk and discuss how we might respond to this.
Thanks.

Sam Borries
Chief, Emergency Response Branch 2
USEPA Region 5, Superfund Division
Office: 312-353-8360
Mobile: 312-802-5336

From: Walts, Alan
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 11:05 AM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; Short, Thomas <short.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Ballotti, Doug <ballotti.douglas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Recap Meeting with Regional Administrator Stepp and Southeast Side Community Representatives

I got some additional input from Debbie that provides more context on the community summary:

- More specifics on where the removal action for lead is stated as 400 ppm in the public SH Bell materials: "Go to USEPA website and search SH Bell Chicago, and you will see it on the most recent document about the forthcoming planned cleanup and the soil sampling webviewer breakout box). I think USEPA needs to explain why it would not take action at properties where lead exceeds its stated RML." I.e., they aren't looking for a change in standard, but clearer communication.
- They recognize the removal standards, but also pointed to our flexibility and authority to use a lower number when there are vulnerable populations. "So, while EPA might use 5,500 ppm as the removal standard generally, it has the authority to use a lower number when there are children under 7, pregnant women, etc. RA Stepp committed to considering that flexibility here (both for lead and manganese). We know that 1,600 ppm as the TACO standard and ILEPA/USEPA have used 1,800 ppm for the action level for manganese in soil. Those numbers could be used when there are vulnerable/sensitive populations in the home." I.e., for manganese they are asking us to expand the covered properties based on risk to sensitive populations.

Director, Multi-media Programs Office
U.S. EPA, Region 5
Phone: (312) 353-8894

From: Walts, Alan
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2019 8:52 AM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; Short, Thomas <short.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Ballotti, Doug <ballotti.douglas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Recap Meeting with Regional Administrator Stepp and Southeast Side Community Representatives

Please let me know if you're ok with my draft response based on your edits:

"On item #5, for S.H. Bell:

1. EPA will evaluate the opportunity to undertake removal actions at properties with levels of manganese that exceed 5,500 ppm. As we discussed during the April 16th meeting, this is the level identified in EPA guidance.
2. EPA will evaluate the opportunity to undertake removal actions at properties with levels of lead exceeding 1,200 ppm with sensitive populations (i.e., where homes include children under 7 years old or pregnant women), applying the removal program data that has been collected in the area around SH Bell. We want to make sure this standard is clearly communicated, and invite input on specific places where EPA's communication materials can be clearer about the removal level for this investigation.
3. EPA will directly provide to this group its signed "decision document" regarding the remediation of properties in the residential area surrounding SH Bell as soon as possible after the document is signed.

On item #5, for Watco:

1. EPA will undertake a soil investigation on residential properties to the south and southeast of the Watco facility.
2. EPA will prioritize soil investigation at the baseball field which is used for children's little league games; and will communicate sampling results when they are available."

Director, Multi-media Programs Office
U.S. EPA, Region 5
Phone: (312) 353-8894

From: Borries, Samuel
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2019 7:30 AM
To: Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>; Short, Thomas <short.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Ballotti, Doug <ballotti.douglas@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Recap Meeting with Regional Administrator Stepp and Southeast Side Community Representatives

Hi Alan,

If it is not too late for item 5.a.ii below we should add that this pertains to the removal program data that has been collected in the area around SH Bell. I don't want to leave the impression that we are continuing to sample the neighborhood and will be looking for more Tier 1 homes.

Sam Borries
Chief, Emergency Response Branch 2
USEPA Region 5, Superfund Division
Office: 312-353-8360
Mobile: 312-802-5336

From: Walts, Alan
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 1:32 PM
To: Short, Thomas <short.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; Ballotti, Doug <ballotti.douglas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Recap Meeting with Regional Administrator Stepp and Southeast Side Community Representatives

Thanks Tom

Director, Multi-media Programs Office
U.S. EPA, Region 5
Phone: (312) 353-8894

From: Short, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2019 1:20 PM
To: Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>
Cc: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; Ballotti, Doug <ballotti.douglas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Recap Meeting with Regional Administrator Stepp and Southeast Side Community Representatives

Alan, see changes below.

5. Manganese/Lead in Soil Investigation and Remediation:

a. SH Bell:

- i. EPA will evaluate the opportunity to undertake removal actions at properties with levels of manganese that exceed 5,500 ~~1,600~~ ppm. ~~including, for example, expediting remediation where homes include children under 7 years old, pregnant women, other health-compromised individuals, or homes where visiting children spent a significant~~

number of hours in the home (even if they do not live there).

ii. EPA will evaluate the opportunity to undertake removal actions at properties with levels of lead exceeding 1,200 ppm with sensitive populations i.e., where homes include children under 7 years old or pregnant women. EPA will respond to our questions regarding the standard it will apply as action levels for the removal of lead in soil in the residential area surrounding the SH Bell facility. We specifically discussed that EPA's materials reference 400 ppm as the appropriate removal level for this investigation. It will also look for opportunities to address contamination at properties with lead levels exceeding 400 ppm.

iii. EPA will release to this group its signed "decision document" regarding the remediation of properties in the residential area surrounding SH Bell

b. Watco:

i. EPA has committed to immediately undertaking a soil investigation in the area surrounding on residential properties to the south and southeast of the Watco facility.

ii. EPA will prioritize soil investigation at the baseball field which is used for children's little league games.

iii. EPA will communicate sampling results when they are available. We also request that EPA alert the community to the possibility of contaminated soil at the baseball field as soon as possible.

From: Walts, Alan

Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2019 10:48 AM

To: Short, Thomas <short.thomas@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: Recap Meeting with Regional Administrator Stepp and Southeast Side Community Representatives

Importance: High

Here you go - thanks

Director, Multi-media Programs Office
U.S. EPA, Region 5
Phone: (312) 353-8894

From: Walts, Alan
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 8:57 AM
To: Short, Thomas <short.thomas@epa.gov>; Compher, Michael <compher.michael@epa.gov>; Furey, Eileen <furey.eileen@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Recap Meeting with Regional Administrator Stepp and Southeast Side Community Representatives
Importance: High

Hi – could you please give me your feedback on whether this email accurately states the commitments and next steps coming out of the 4/16 meeting? I have reviewed and the only area I'd want to clarify is under #3 – while I'm certainly open to facilitating meetings if that is helpful and appropriate, I recorded the discussion as more broadly about ensuring they have every opportunity our SEP policy allows and encourages; and offering my help in building a "SEP bank" of potential SEPs for the area that reflect community priorities and needs.

Director, Multi-media Programs Office
U.S. EPA, Region 5
Phone: (312) 353-8894

From: Deborah Gail Musiker
<Debbie.M.Chizewer@law.northwestern.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 4:10 PM
To: Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>; Thiede, Kurt <thiede.kurt@epa.gov>
Cc: Geertsma, Meleah <mgeertsma@nrdc.org>; Harley, Keith (<kharley@kentlaw.iit.edu> <kharley@kentlaw.iit.edu>
Subject: Recap Meeting with Regional Administrator Stepp and Southeast Side Community Representatives
Importance: High

Dear Regional Administrator Stepp,

Thank you for making the time to meet with us on April 16, 2019. We appreciated the opportunity to share the public health and environmental concerns facing the Southeast Side of Chicago.

We are grateful for your attention to addressing these pressing environmental justice issues and keeping an ongoing dialogue. Please see below our understanding of the commitments made and next steps:

- 1. Continued Engagement:**

- a. Regional Administrator Stepp and her team will come for a Southeast Side tour.
- b. Regional Administrator Stepp and her team will meet with the group of community leaders and advocates on a quarterly basis, beginning with a meeting to be held on the Southeast Side in conjunction with the tour.
- c. Community leaders would like to include the Chicago Department of Public Health in at least one meeting.

2. Schroud Site Signage and Fencing:

- a. Community leaders will provide EPA Region 5 with preferences for signage design and EPA will implement these proposals to the maximum extent possible.
- b. Community leaders will make recommendations for appropriate fencing locations to deter use of the extremely dangerous Schroud site.

3. Supplemental Environmental Projects for the SE Side:

Alan Walz will facilitate meetings with community leaders and local facilities under enforcement actions to further supplemental environmental projects that originate in and receive approval from the community, and are primarily facilitated by community members, and reflect the connection between industrial pollution in the community and the public health and environmental impacts in the community.

4. Air Monitoring and Other Data:

- a. EPA Region 5 will promote the public accessibility of air monitoring data in the community by coordinating with local and state agencies to share and post data.
- b. EPA Region 5 will work with state and local partners to understand cumulative impacts in the community.
- c. EPA will make accessible all air monitoring data for facilities within Region 5.

5. Manganese/Lead in Soil Investigation and Remediation:

a. SH Bell:

i. EPA will evaluate the opportunity to undertake removal actions at properties with levels of manganese that exceed 5,500 ppm. ~~including, for example, expediting remediation where homes include children under 7 years old, pregnant women, other health-compromised individuals, or homes where visiting children spent a significant number of hours in the home (even if they do not live there).~~ EPA d

ii. EPA will evaluated the opportunity to undertake removal actions at properties with levels of lead exceeding 1,200 ppm with sensitive populations i.e., where homes include children under 7 years old, pregnant women, other health-compromised individuals. ~~will respond to our questions regarding the standard it will apply as action levels for the removal of lead in soil in the residential area surrounding the SH Bell facility. We specifically discussed that EPA's materials reference 400 ppm as the appropriate removal level for this investigation. It will also look for opportunities to address contamination at properties with lead levels exceeding 400 ppm.~~

iii. EPA will release to this group its signed "decision document" regarding the remediation of properties in the residential area surrounding SH Bell

b. Watco:

i. EPA has committed to ~~immediately~~ undertaking soil investigation in the area surrounding to the south and southeast of the Watco facility.

ii. EPA will prioritize soil investigation at the baseball field which is used for children's little league games, if we can obtain access.

iii. EPA will communicate sampling results when they are available. We also request that EPA alert the community to the possibility of contaminated soil at the baseball field as soon as possible.

We look forward to hearing from you soon and continuing our dialogue.

Best,

Southeast Environmental Task Force: Peggy Salazar; Yessenia Balcazar; Keith Harley (attorney); Daryl Grable (attorney)

Southeast Side Coalition to Ban Petcoke; Martha Allen; Kelly Nichols; Debbie Chizewer (attorney)

Natural Resources Defense Council: Meleah Geertsma